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Zeichen/Ref/Réf. **EP19963-013/iw**

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° **00122717.2-1523/**

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire
CLARION Co., Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,--) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.
See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention EP 00 12 2717

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
① X ✓	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 09, 31 October 1995 (1995-10-31) -& JP 07 160203 A (ALPINE ELECTRON INC), 23 June 1995 (1995-06-23) * abstract; figures 4,6,9,10,12 *	1,2,6,9	B60R11/02 B60K35/00 B60K37/00 B60K37/02 B60K37/04
② A ✓	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 02, 30 January 1998 (1998-01-30) -& JP 09 280873 A (FUJITSU TEN LTD), 31 October 1997 (1997-10-31) * abstract; figures *	1,8-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B60R B60K
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:			
see sheet B			
The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN		27 January 2003	David, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C27)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-6, 9

JP 07 160 203 A (referred as D1 in the following) discloses (see abstract and fig. 9, 10, 12) a vehicle-mounted apparatus comprising:

a first panel 82 including a first display 81; and
a second panel 85 including a second display 87; wherein said second panel 85 is adapted to be opened and closed with respect to said first display 81 about the side thereof as an axis 86.

device D1 thus discloses the subject matter of independent claim 1.

is D1 discloses also the additional features of dependent: claim 2 (see fig.12), actually that said second panel 85

turned upside down,
claim 6 (see fig.4 and 6) that it comprises means for displaying the current audio source on the second display 51.

The subject matter of dependent claim 3 differs from the vehicle-mounted apparatus disclosed in D1 in that it comprises an operating switch; and
means to change the function indication on said operating switch according to the predetermined conditions.

The problem corresponding to these special technical features can be seen as how to use the back side of the second panel as a keyboard that can be used in both the open and close positions of the vehicle-mounted apparatus.

and Remark: for clarity reasons (Article 84 EPC), claims 4
5 should be made dependent of claim 3 because they both contain the features of said claim 3.

a D1 discloses also (see abstract and fig. 4, 6, 9, 10, 12)
method of controlling a vehicle-mounted apparatus comprising a first panel 82 having a first display 81, a second panel 85 having a second display 87,
said method comprising:
with adapting said second panel 85 to be opened and closed
respect to said first display 81 about the side edge thereof as an axis 86 and to rotate thereof upside down,
displaying the current audio source 61 on said second display 51.



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

method D1 thus discloses the subject matter of independent claim 9.

2. Claims: 7, 8, 10

The subject matter of dependent claim 7 differs from the vehicle-mounted apparatus disclosed in D1 in that it further comprises means for detecting the action of said second panel by a predetermined angle in terms of at least one of the open/close actions and the rotation; and means for switching the source upon detecting.

D1 discloses also (see abstract and fig. 9, 10, 12) a method of controlling a vehicle-mounted apparatus comprising a first panel 82 having a first display 81, a second panel 85 having a second display 87,
said method comprising the steps of:
adapting said second panel 85 to be opened and closed
with respect to said first display 81 about the side edge thereof as an axis 86 and to rotate thereof upside down, from which the subject matter of independent method claim 8 differs in that it comprises the step of changing the function indication according to the predetermined conditions.

D1 discloses also (see abstract and fig. 9, 10, 12) a method of controlling a vehicle-mounted apparatus comprising a first panel 82 having a first display 81, a second panel 85 having a second display 87, and said second panel 85 being adapted to be opened and closed with respect to said first display 81 about the side edge thereof as an axis 86 and to rotate upside down, from which the subject matter of independent method claim 10 differs in that it comprises the steps of:
detecting the action of said second panel 85 at a predetermined angle in terms of at least one of the open/close actions and the rotation, and
switching the source upon detecting.

The problem corresponding to these special technical features can be seen as how to choose the source connected to the second panel according to the angle between the two panels.

The groups of claims (1-6, 9) and (7, 8, 10) relating to different problems or at least to alternative unrelated solutions of the same known problem, and each involving different technical features, no single general inventive concept can be seen to link them as required by



European Patent
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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 12 2717

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

Art. 84 and Rule 30 EPC, so that non-unity exists.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 12 2717

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

27-01-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 07160203	A	23-06-1995	JP 3262660 B2	04-03-2002
JP 09280873	A	31-10-1997	NONE	